

CLAIMS

Claims 1-27 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 12, 22, 24 and 26 are independent claims and claims 2-11, 13-21, 23, 25, and 27, respectively, depend from the independent claims. Claims 22, 24, and 26 have been amended. The Applicants request reconsideration of the claims in light of the following amendments.

Please amend the claims as follows.

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1. (Previously Presented) A microphone assembly comprising:
a front inlet tube;
a rear inlet tube;
a microphone cartridge having a front inlet port acoustically coupled to the front inlet tube and a rear inlet port acoustically coupled to the rear inlet tube;
an actuator switch being movable between a first position in which the rear inlet tube is plugged and a second position in which the rear inlet tube is unplugged; and
circuitry for sensing whether the actuator switch is in the first position or the second position, and for selecting an output based upon the position sensed.
 2. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 1 wherein the circuitry comprises an electronic contact and sensor switch.
 3. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 2 wherein the electronic contact and sensor switch comprises first and second conductors.
 4. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 3 wherein the actuator switch has an electrical contact mounted therewith for providing electrical conduction between the first and second conductors when the actuator switch is in one of the first and second positions.
 5. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 1 wherein the circuitry selects a non-equalized output when the actuator switch is in the first position, and an equalized output when the actuator switch is in the second position.

6. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 4 wherein the circuitry selects a non-equalized output when the actuator switch is in the first position in response to conduction between the first and second conductors provided by the electrical contact, and wherein the circuitry selects an equalized output when the actuator switch is in the second position in response to no conduction between the first and second conductors.

7. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 1 wherein the circuitry selects an output having higher gain when the actuator switch is in first position, and an output having lower gain when the actuator switch is in the second position.

8. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 1 wherein the circuitry selects an output having lower environmental noise reduction when the actuator switch is in the first position, and an output having higher environmental noise reduction when the actuator switch is in the second position.

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9. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 1 further comprising a housing, and wherein the circuitry is at least partially integral to the housing.

10. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 1 wherein the circuitry is at least partially integral to the microphone cartridge.

11. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 1 wherein the output selected is input to hearing aid circuitry.

12. (Previously Presented) A microphone assembly comprising:
a microphone cartridge having a diaphragm;
a first inlet tube acoustically coupled to a first side of the diaphragm;
a second inlet tube acoustically coupled to a second side of the diaphragm;
an actuator switch being movable between a first position in which the second inlet tube is plugged and a second position in which the second inlet tube is unplugged; and
circuitry for selecting a first output when the actuator switch is in the first position, and a second output when the actuator switch is in the second position.

13. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 12 wherein the circuitry comprises an electronic contact and sensor switch having first and second conductors.

14. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 13 wherein the actuator switch has an electrical contact mounted therewith for providing electrical conduction between the first and second conductors when the actuator switch is in one of the first and second positions.

15. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 12 wherein the first output comprises a non-equalized output and the second output comprises an equalized output.

16. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 14 wherein the first output comprises a non-equalized output and is selected in response to conduction between the first and second conductors provided by the electrical contact, and wherein the second output comprises an equalized output selected in response to no conduction between the first and second conductors.

17. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 12 wherein the first output has a first gain value and the second output has a second gain value.

18. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 12 wherein the first output has an first environmental noise reduction amount and the second output has a second environmental noise reduction amount.

19. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 12 further comprising a housing, and wherein the circuitry is at least partially integral to the housing.

20. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 12 wherein the circuitry is at least partially integral to the microphone cartridge.

21. (Previously Presented) The microphone assembly of claim 12 wherein the output selected is input to hearing aid circuitry.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a microphone comprising:
plugging a sound inlet tube;
electrically sensing that the sound inlet tube is plugged;
selecting a first output based ~~on~~ upon electrically sensing that the sound inlet tube is plugged;
unplugging the sound inlet tube;
electrically sensing that the sound inlet tube is unplugged; and
selecting a second output based ~~on~~ upon electrically sensing that the sound inlet tube is unplugged.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 further comprising inputting the selected output to hearing aid circuitry.

A 24. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a microphone comprising:
~~receiving an actuator switch in a first position in which a sound inlet tube is plugged;~~
electrically sensing that ~~the~~ an actuator switch is in ~~the~~ a first position in which a sound inlet tube is plugged;
~~receiving the actuator switch in a second position in which the sound inlet tube is unplugged;~~
electrically sensing that the actuator switch is in ~~the~~ a second position in which the sound inlet tube is unplugged; and
selecting one of a first output ~~if the actuator switch is in the first position~~ and a second output ~~if the actuator switch is in the second position~~ based upon electrically sensing that the actuator switch is in one of the first position and the second position.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising inputting the selected output to hearing aid circuitry.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a microphone comprising:
plugging a sound inlet tube;
unplugging the sound inlet tube;
electrically sensing whether the sound inlet tube is plugged or unplugged; and
selecting an output based ~~on~~ upon the electrical sensing.

A 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising inputting the selected output to hearing aid circuitry.
